

the citizens of Sacramento are unparalleled and her friendship is invaluable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the lifetime of this extraordinary person.

TRIBUTE TO CAMERON
BALLANTYNE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my Washington, DC staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District. Cameron Ballantyne will conclude his internship this week to pursue a degree at my alma mater, the University of Oregon. I wish him well in this endeavor and know that he will excel in his pursuit of a career in the field of journalism.

Cameron comes from a fine Oregon family. I know and admire his parents, Kent and Mary Ballantyne of Lake Oswego, Oregon, and count myself fortunate to call them my friends. I have not been surprised to find that in Cameron's case, the apple does not fall far from the tree.

Following his graduation from high school, Cameron's academic pursuits led him to the Rexburg, Idaho, campus of Brigham Young University. After an exemplary academic performance there, Cameron embarked on a two-year mission in the service of his church in Moscow, Russia, where he became fluent in the Russian language. His strong sense of duty and idealism was further demonstrated when he returned to Oregon to work for the American Red Cross Blood Service. Cameron continued his record of civic service in September by moving to the nation's capital to serve as an intern in my congressional office.

During his stay in Washington, DC, Cameron experienced much more than the typical intern. He joined my staff only one week before the tragic events of September 11th and from his vantage point in Washington witnessed the best and worst of humanity. Cameron was undeterred by the attacks and continued to perform every task he was given with diligence and attention to detail. His efforts were instrumental in responding to the immediate challenges facing my staff, providing much needed help during our temporary displacement from the Longworth Building. Cameron's faithful service gave me full confidence to trust him with important work in a number of subject areas, including press relations.

Cameron's departure will not go unnoticed in my office, especially among my staff, who relied upon his assistance on a daily basis. I know I speak for them all in testifying to the competence and professionalism Cameron exhibited in carrying out his duties, attributes that will serve him well in any career he chooses. I am confident that Cameron will always approach life with the same enthusiasm he brought with him to work every day. I am sorry to see him leave, but wish him the best life has to offer. Cameron, good luck, Go Ducks, and thank you for a job well done.

GEORGE BATH HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend George Bath, a native of my district, who is on his way back to his hometown of Edwardsville after a long career here on Capitol Hill. A farewell party will be held for George on December 18th.

After graduating from Wyoming Valley West High School and Wilkes College, George moved to the Washington, D.C., area to begin his career in the procurement field. While working here, he earned a Masters in Business Administration from Frostburg State University in Maryland. His strong negotiation skills, coupled with an unyielding commitment to quality management and teamwork, have earned him the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the Hill.

George arrived on Capitol Hill in June of 1989, working as a Purchasing Agent for the Senate Sergeant At Arms Office in the start-up procurement office. During his tenure, he helped to mold an office that saved millions of dollars for the taxpayer while also receiving the highest quality goods and services.

In August 1996, George transferred to the House side, where he became a Procurement Specialist in the Office of Procurement under the Chief Administrative Officer. George possessed exceptional knowledge of procurement practices and principles and worked superbly well with Member, Leadership and Committee offices and all other House Officers. No job was too small or too great for George. Just as he had done on the Senate side, he focused on saving taxpayer money, while achieving the highest quality product for the offices he served. George's uncanny knack for resolving disputes for the offices he served consistently resulted in win-win outcomes.

In 1998, George became a Senior Procurement Specialist because of his ability to handle high-stress and high-visibility projects on behalf of a very demanding customer base. His accomplishments and talents in this position include diligence and attention to the House's unique needs for improved vendor performance, using the Internet to post procurements, and opening the realm of competition to a wider range of vendors. He worked in conjunction with the Committee on House Administration in providing House-wide briefings to all House offices, and it would be hard to find an office that has not heard the name George Bath. After all, he developed a training manual and class and then taught House personnel on how to effectively manage contracts.

In June 2000, George received recognition for his exemplary contributions to the organizations of both the Chief Administrative Officer and the Architect of the Capitol by earning the Distinguished Service Award. George was honored for his management of the procurement process supporting a first-of-its-kind project demonstrating the ability of these offices to work together to produce a successful delivery. As part of this process, George oversaw the installation of a state-of-the-art audio-visual system for the International Relations Committee hearing room. Perhaps his greatest story involved the delivery of a 10-

feet-square-by-40-feet-long crate for the hearing room through the front door of the Rayburn Building as he was suddenly surrounded by police.

In November 2000, George ultimately became the head of the Office of Procurement because of his excellent overall performance. He became a known commodity unto himself throughout the House, recognized for his ability, responsiveness and candid, reliable advice. Bill Dellar, Associate Administrator of Procurement, has said, "George Bath has indeed served the House with pride, energy, and creativity. His shoes will be hard to fill!" Mr. Speaker, I heartily agree.

But, Mr. Speaker, George's new life back in Pennsylvania has been on hold since October of this year. You see, he was supposed to start his new job there in October, but he was called into action after the September 11th terrorist strikes and October 17th anthrax attacks and has extended his time here to put the House in a better and more secure position. His devotion and dedication to the emergency contract challenges that followed have proven exemplary. The challenges he encountered were frequent and varied, but George's engaging personality and recognized professionalism met these needs effectively.

Now George's wife, Diane, and two sons, Stephen and John Paul, are patiently awaiting his return to Pennsylvania, and we, here at the House, need to let him go. His professionalism and performance bring great credit upon himself, to the House of Representatives, and, I am sure, to his new employer, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre.

I will close by repeating the words of the Chief Administrative Officer, Jay Eagen, about George: "If I have a complaint about George Bath, it's that he tried to do too much, for too many people. But of course, that's not really a complaint, it's a compliment." Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call George Bath's public service to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I send my best wishes to him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH
PACKINGHAM ON HIS UNFLINCH-
ING COMMITMENT TO MIAMI'S
INNERCITY RESIDENTS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade County's unsung heroes, Mr. Ralph Packingham. Recently, people from all walks of life came together to thank and pay homage to this incessant gadfly for the many years he has devoted to the less fortunate of our innercity neighborhoods.

As a Korean War veteran, he served honorably in heeding our nation's call to duty toward safeguarding our freedom and security. After his stint with our Armed Forces, he attended professional schools of beauty culture and hair styling in New York, expanding his knowledge and expertise on the subject with the Helene Curtis Laboratories. Though a North Carolinian by birth, he came down to Miami to live and make his mark on our community's well-being.